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Sustainable development: Convention on Biological Diversity

Antigua and Barbuda:* draft resolution

Convention on Biological Diversity

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/201 of 20 December 2000, 56/197 of 21 December 2001, 57/253 and 57/260 of 20 December 2002, 58/212 of 23 December 2003, 59/236 of 22 December 2004, 60/202 of 22 December 2005, 61/204 of 20 December 2006 and 62/194 of 19 December 2007,

Recalling also its resolution 61/203 of 20 December 2006 on the International Year of Biodiversity, 2010,

Reiterating that the Convention on Biological Diversity[1] is the key international instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources,

Noting that one hundred and ninety States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified the Convention and that one hundred and forty-nine States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity,[2]

Recalling the commitments of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to pursue a more efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and the achievement by 2010 of a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity, which will require action at all levels, including the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[2] Ibid., vol. 2226, No. 30619.

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Concerned by the continued loss of biological diversity, and acknowledging that an unprecedented effort is needed to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction in the rate of loss of biological diversity,

Noting the need for enhanced cooperation among the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[3] and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[4] (the "Rio Conventions"), while respecting their individual mandates, concerned by the negative impacts that loss of biodiversity, desertification, land degradation and climate change have on each other, and recognizing the potential benefits of complementarities in addressing these problems in a mutually supportive manner with a view to achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Acknowledging the contribution that the ongoing work of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, of the World Intellectual Property Organization, can make in enhancing the effective implementation of the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Noting the contribution that South-South cooperation can make in the area of biological diversity,

Expressing deep appreciation to the Government of Germany for hosting the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the fourth meeting of the Conference serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and welcoming the offer of the Government of Japan to host in 2010 the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the fifth meeting of the Conference serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol;

Taking note of the reports of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment,[5]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;[6]

2. *Urges* developed countries parties to the Convention[1] to contribute to the relevant trust funds of the Convention, in particular so as to enhance the full participation of the developing countries parties in all of its activities;

3. *Urges* all Member States to fulfil their commitments to significantly reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010, and emphasizes that this will require an appropriate focus on the loss of biodiversity in their relevant policies and programmes and the continued provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries, including through the Global Environment Facility;

4. *Takes note* of the outcomes of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the fourth meeting of the

[3] Ibid., vol. 1954, No. 33480.
[4] Ibid., vol. 1771, No. 30822.
[5] Available from http://millenniumassessment.org.
[6] A/63/294, annex III.

Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

5. *Urges* parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to facilitate the transfer of technology for the effective implementation of the Convention in accordance with its provisions and, in this regard, takes note of the strategy for the practical implementation of the programme of work on technology transfer and scientific and technological cooperation developed by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Technology Transfer and Scientific and Technological Cooperation, as a preliminary basis for concrete activities by parties and international organizations;

6. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting of a strategy for resource mobilization in support of the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention, and invites Parties to the Convention to adopt measurable targets and indicators for the implementation of the strategy, addressing all relevant funding sources, according to national priorities and capacities and taking into account the special situation and needs of developing countries;

7. *Welcomes* the decision by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting to instruct the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing to finalize the elaboration and negotiation of the international regime on access and benefit-sharing and to submit it for consideration and adoption by the Conference at its tenth meeting, in accordance with Conference decisions VII/19 D and VIII/4 A, and welcomes also the establishment of a road map for the negotiations contained in that decision;

8. *Reaffirms* the commitment, subject to national legislation, to respect, preserve and maintain the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization;

9. *Invites* parties to the Convention, other Member States, relevant international organizations and other relevant stakeholders to make preparations to celebrate in 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity, welcomes decision IX/33 of the Conference of the Parties, and in that regard, inter alia:

(a) Invites all Member States to observe the International Year of Biodiversity and establish, as soon as possible, national committees to that end;

(b) Invites the Secretary-General to consider appointing before 2010 an honorary ambassador for the International Year of Biodiversity, who would have a mandate to call for practical actions and solutions towards meeting the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(c) Decides, as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity, to convene at its sixty-fifth session, in 2010, a one-day high-level meeting of the General Assembly, with participation of Heads of State, Governments and delegations;

(d) Calls on United Nations departments, funds, programmes, specialized agencies and regional commissions to fully support and participate in the activities

being envisaged for the observance of 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity, under the auspices of the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

10. *Notes with appreciation* the ongoing efforts of the Executive Secretary of the secretariat of the Convention to promote South-South cooperation on biodiversity and development;

11. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention of decision IX/25 on South-South cooperation for development which, inter alia, encourages developing country parties to engage in South-South cooperation on the issue of biodiversity, complemented and supported by North-South cooperation, and to incorporate biodiversity concerns in regional and subregional cooperation agreements and associated activities;

12. *Takes note* of the development by the Executive Secretary of the secretariat of the Convention of the Gender Plan of Action,

13. *Takes note* of the ongoing work of the Joint Liaison Group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[4] the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[3] and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and further encourages continuing cooperation in order to promote complementarities among the secretariats, while respecting their independent legal status;

14. *Invites* the countries that have not yet done so to ratify or to accede to the Convention;

15. *Invites* countries to consider ratifying or acceding to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;[7]

16. *Invites* the parties to the Convention that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to consider doing so, reiterates the commitment of States parties to the Protocol to support its implementation, and stresses that this will require the full support of parties and of relevant international organizations, in particular with regard to the provision of assistance to developing countries in capacity-building for biosafety;

17. *Invites* the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to report, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session on the work of the Conference of the Parties and to include in that report information on the preparations of the high-level meeting referred to above;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity".

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[7] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the Conference of FAO, Thirty-first Session, Rome, 2-13 November 2001* (C 2001/REP), appendix D.